

I am a second grade teacher in an urban setting. I have been a teacher for over ten years. I teach in a district with very little in terms of materials and technology, which puts us at an added disadvantage on top of our challenging population. I have 25 students. Five students in ABA, six students with an EIs, two 504 plans, behavior issues and two children with hearing impairments. We have been given our curriculum in pieces this year. I still have no idea what the fourth marking period will look like. The first three marking periods were given to us after the beginning of each marking period. We then have to read through it and note the suggested materials. We may have 2 or 3 of the suggested books for the 9 week period. The rest we have to find on our own. If we choose to use Reading A to Z, we must print reading materials using our own printers, ink and paper. Then cut, collate and staple for each of our students. We must come up with our own spelling, vocabulary and let's not forget math. This includes all testing materials. At the same time my administrator has been observing me. Two formals and three informals this year. The same year we must interpret the curriculum, find materials, make all teaching materials and tests. We didn't have any clear training on the evaluation process and weren't given the rubric prior to observations. Ironically If I didn't explain the rubric prior to teaching my own students I would have failed my own observation. We also had very limited training on Bloomboard, which is difficult at best to navigate. I have concerns about the privacy of my personal information and the information that I post. No one is able to answer my concerns. The two administrators in my building are polar opposites on scoring. If you have one administrator your scores are much higher than teachers having the other administrator. The pickier of the two administrators is taking points away for subjective things that should be a teacher's professional choice. They include whether or not you choose to have the children use an office for testing privacy. (I lost points because he did not believe in this) I also lost points because I helped one of my special education students and should have had her wait instead for the behavioral therapist. This student is my student and my responsibility. She is going through emotional turmoil outside of school with a sick parent and needs extra support at school. (I also lost points for this) I also lost points because the morning of my informal observation my pencil sharpener (that my husband had to install) broke. I should have known it was going to break and sharpened the pencils ahead of time. Now I need to be psychic? I had to go to Staples and purchase a new sharpener with my personal money (I spent \$1400 in 2013) I have been waiting for three weeks for it to be installed. I have my fingers crossed that I don't have another informal. Is this really what the evaluation system was meant for? Things out of a teacher's control. I can't control the 18 hours they are not in school. Did they sleep, eat, read, do their homework? Was there violence or drugs in their house?

I think this evaluation system and the common core was too rushed and not clearly thought out. The governor and legislators involved clearly don't know what a teacher does and is responsible for on a daily basis. I also don't believe the Common Core is developmentally appropriate. It uses the assumption that every 7 year old is exactly the same. As an educator in an urban setting I can assure you this is not true. I believe in high expectations for all students on an individual basis. With the common core there is no room for individuality and creativity. Children develop at their own pace and this is ok. Children are not widgets.

Please stop both the implementation of the Common Core and the Evaluation System. This clearly was not done right. I score Hartford a below standard at best. Teachers aren't given

training, technology or materials but Are being evaluated. Let's put the focus on our children who deserve the best education we can provide.

Sincerely,

Michelle Micci